

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2014

CONTACT

Leah Bucco-White, Communications and Legislative Services, 402-471-9356, leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

Commodity Supplemental Food Program Changes to Low-Income Seniors Only Program

Lincoln – The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) now serves low-income seniors due to a change in federal requirements.

The 2014 Federal Agricultural Act known as the Farm Bill was signed into law on Feb. 7. It changed the eligibility requirements for CSFP making the program only for low-income seniors 60 years and older. Women and children are no longer eligible to apply for the program; however women and children already receiving CSFP benefits prior to the signing of the bill will continue to do so.

CSFP is a United States Department of Agriculture program that provides nutritious food to eligible Nebraskans. The food is purchased and distributed by the agency and includes milk, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, rice or pasta, canned meat, cheese and juice. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services works with eight local agencies that receive and distribute food boxes to program participants across Nebraska.

Nebraska CSFP served 633 women and children and 10,237 seniors a month in 2013.

Women and children who are not currently part of CSFP, but are seeking assistance will be referred to other resources in their communities such as the Women, Infants and Children Program http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/wic_index.aspx or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Pages/fia_fstamps.aspx. People with additional questions about Nebraska CSFP can call 800-942-1171.